

FIRST PETER

PART 125

“A PLACE TO FIND REST”

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As believers we must encounter many trials and painful tribulations. It seems we are tested continually to see if we are really trusting God's purpose in our lives; and we are!

We need to daily understand that our Loving God does not turn His back to us as we live life. When we are helpless and confused, He is very aware. When we are without strength, He is lovingly concerned. When we suffer pain (both physical and mental), He is deeply involved. Our Heavenly Father not only cares about every detail of our life, but is actively going before us to always help us in every situation.

THE FIERY ORDEALS

I Peter 4:12-14

- All believers face **opposition** in the Christian life.
- We should never be **surprised** by this “God ordained” testing.
- Hardships, pain and affliction are a **normal** part of those who follow Jesus Christ.
- Remember, without **testing** you would not grow more and more **dependent** on God’s resources.

OUR ASSIGNMENT

I Peter 4:13

- We are to not **shun** or shy away from a certain kind of suffering.
- We are to suffer **like** Christ suffered while He was **ministering** on earth.

- He suffered because... He would do the **Father's will** at any cost!
- We, if we **love** the Savior, must have the same **attitude** and direction in our own lives.
- Our participation in the trials which come from being "**godly**" is directly proportional to our participation in the "**Blessed Hope.**"
- We suffer for doing right in an evil world and the "**light**" of our future **reunion** with Jesus Christ grows brighter!

HIS PROMISE TO US

I Peter 4:14

- When we are **insulted** for following Christ and His **purpose** in our lives, the Holy Spirit takes special **notice.**
- We are made "**happy**" as a result of the Holy Spirit's **blessing** in our lives.

- The Holy Spirit also ministers to us in a very **special** way. He...
 - gives a supernatural **relief**.
 - gives heavenly **refreshment**.
 - gives us a “spiritual” **break** from the heaviness.
 - supernaturally takes the **weight** of our **load**.
- However, this promise is only **available** to those who suffer for doing righteousness!

FINAL THOUGHTS

- It is easy to **forget** God’s presence when we are suffering.
- Don’t waste a special provision of God because of **rebellion** or stubbornness toward God’s plan in your life!